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GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MYTHBUSTER?

TELEVISION SHOW CREATES EXHIBIT AT CHICAGO MUSEUM PAGE 11

WINNIPEG metro®

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

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Graham James, accused sex offender, arrives at court in Winnipeg Tuesday for sentencing for sexually abusing two of his former players. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-coach gets two years for sex abuse

Junior hockey. Judge took almost an hour and a half to outline reasons for Graham James' sentence

Reviled one-time junior hockey coach Graham James was sentenced to two years in prison Tuesday for sexually preying on two of his former players.

A spectator in the courtroom shouted "Yay," then spat out an expletive as James shook his lawyer's hand, was led away in handcuffs and taken into custody.

"Goodbye, you piece of (expletive)," the man said after Judge Catherine Carlson handed down her sentence.

Carlson made James stand up in the prisoner's box to hear his fate. He showed no emotion and simply answered "yes" when she asked him if he understood the sentence.

James pleaded guilty in December to repeatedly sexually abusing retired NHL star Theo Fleury and his cousin, Todd Holt, when they played for him in the Western Hockey League in the 1980s and '90s.

Carlson ordered that James have no contact with either of them.

Holt, 39, responded immediately with disappointment.

"This sentence today is nothing short of a national travesty because we know that childhood abuse has reached epidemic proportions in our country," he read from a statement at a news conference in Cochrane, Alta.

Carlson characterized the case as complicated, but indicated that probation alone was not an option. She acknowledged the significant attention the case garnered and the understandable public outrage it generated. "There is no sentence this court can impose that will give back to Mr. Holt and Mr. Fleury that which was taken by Mr. James," she said.

"Obviously, it's not a sentence we all want to see," victim Sheldon Kennedy said outside the courthouse.

"At least he's going back to jail." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victim's stance

"I believe this is something that I'm going to have to fight for the rest of my life. Until they can invent a pill that controls what you dream at night or what you have as a nightmare, you are never really over this stuff." **Greg Gilhooly,** whose charges against Graham James were stayed

City denies safe-house funding

Rally planned Friday to protest rejection of $450,000 for anti-domestic-violence centre, which may have to reduce services PAGE 3

Israel bans too-thin models

Groundbreaking Israeli law challenges the fashion industry by forbidding the employment of underweight models PAGE 7

Flower power in Eastern Quebec

Quaint villages that dot La Belle Province are in full bloom PAGE 12

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Protest

Osborne House denied funding

A protest is planned at city hall this week after councillors shut down a request for funding from Osborne House Inc. during a special meeting to pass the city's 2012 operating budget Tuesday.

The Winnipeg-based safe house for women and children escaping situations of domestic violence had asked the city for $450,000.

"It's disappointing because the optics tell me that the focus is on the affluent and the wealthy," said Osborne House CEO Barbara Judt shortly after making one last appeal to council leading up to the vote, which included asking council to divert some money supporting the Winnipeg Jets to the home.

"The message is clear that they're not interested in supporting us, so we're going to have to re-evaluate how we deliver services here."

Judt says the 24-hour shelter — which sees 9,000 women and children every year — has no choice but to begin denying services to those in need.

"I don't want to do this, and I honestly thought this administration would understand this, but they don't," she said.

Judt is scheduled to speak at a rally to be held Friday at 5 p.m. in front of city hall. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Barbara Judt FILE

Taking part in Operation Donation

Sharooq Hasnain, a Grade 9 student at Arthur A. Leach School, and Grade 5 Strathmillan School student Carson Beggs proudly show off the total at a weigh-in held Tuesday for Winnipeg Harvest's 13th annual Operation Donation school food drive held Feb. 27 to March 2. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

The streets. City to be clean-swept a month early

The City of Winnipeg is breaking out the sweepers earlier than usual.

The record-breaking temperatures this month melted away the snow, revealing garbage and sand underneath.

To take care of this problem, the city sent out crews to tend to the downtown area starting Sunday evening. The crews continued their work on regional streets Tuesday night.

"We've never started street-sweeping operations in March, but warm weather, a quick melt and dry conditions have allowed the city to start sweeping downtown and on main routes a month ahead of schedule," said Ken Boyd, manager of streets maintenance, in a press release.

"This initial round of street sweeping will remove sand and other debris from main routes and will help to control dusty conditions."

Residents should remain on alert for temporary "no parking" signs that will restrict parking on streets scheduled for cleaning.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

U of W wants level playing field for funding

University funding. No rational reason for imbalance in funding: Axworthy

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

The University of Winnipeg is asking the Manitoba government to take another look at how the school receives funding compared to other universities in the province.

University president Lloyd Axworthy sent a letter to media outlets Tuesday critical of an "imbalance" in funding that sees the University of Manitoba and Brandon University receive $12,000 per student from the province while the U of W gets just under $6,500 per student.

"This is an historical imbalance that goes back decades and now exists for no rational reason," said Axworthy in the letter. "If the University of Winnipeg were funded using the same formula as other universities… we would be in a strong position to deal with fiscal challenges in the 2012-2013 operating budget."

The university is in the process of drafting its 2012-2013 operating budget, which is required by provincial legislation to be balanced and expected to be complete by June.

John Corlett, the university's vice-president of academics, said the school has to make up a roughly $4-million liability due to changes in how pensions are paid on top of paying for equipment, staff and other operational costs.

He expects the budget to come in around $100 million without additional funding

"We have some real needs here," he said Tuesday, adding the province should consider the school's growing student population when deciding how much funding to give on a per student basis. "Taking in more and more students … has actually put us in this situation where it costs us more and more and more money."

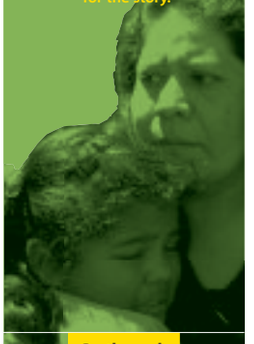
Without an increase in funding, Corlett said the university may be forced to rely more heavily on non-tenured, part-time instructors and cut classes with low enrolment.

University of Winnipeg vice-president of academics John Corlett wants the province to re-examine how the school receives funding. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

1 NEWS

Mobile news

While it might be more comfortable to sleep through a colonoscopy, the side-effects of the sedation amount to more than just grogginess. Scan the code for the story.



On the web

Quake ignites memories

A 7.4-magnitude quake shook central and southern Mexico yesterday, reminding some of the bitter memories of the 1985 quake that killed hundreds. For videos, reactions and the science behind the quake, visit metronews.ca

No proof ex-NDP adviser killed wife: Defence

Trial. There were no witnesses to the killing of Beverly Rowbotham, and no one has testified to seeing the couple argue

The defence says that despite calling almost 80 witnesses over several weeks, the Crown has failed to prove a former political adviser killed his wife.

"(A) suspicious case is not enough to say that Mr. Stobbe is the one who killed his wife," lawyer Tim Killeen said Tuesday as he gave his final arguments to the 12-member jury.

"What you're left with is saying, 'Sure, it could have been him. Or it could have been somebody else."'

Mark Stobbe, a senior adviser to former Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow, is accused of killing Beverly Rowbotham with a hatchet in the couple's backyard in St. Andrew's, Man., in October 2000. The couple had moved to Manitoba earlier that year because Stobbe had accepted a job with the recently elected NDP government of Gary Doer.

Rowbotham was found dead in her car in Selkirk, 15 kilometres north of her home. Stobbe told police she had gone grocery shopping and he had fallen asleep with one of their two sons. When he awoke, he realized she'd never returned.

The Crown's theory is that Stobbe killed his wife during a heated argument, drove her body to Selkirk, then bicycled back home to report her missing. Crown attorney Wendy Dawson presented circumstantial evidence, including DNA tests that showed blood, hair and small bone fragments from Rowbotham were found in the backyard and garage.

But there were no witnesses to the killing, and no one has testified to seeing the couple argue.

"Have you seen anything at all in the evidence ... that said that they had a fight that night?" Killeen asked the jury.

Killeen admitted that it's unusual Rowbotham was killed in her backyard without Stobbe hearing anything. But, he said, that was what happened.

Question of motive

Stobbe "had no reason why he would want to kill her."

Lawyer Tim Killeen
The defence claims no motive was ever brought forth by the Crown

Killeen also told the jury to question a dozen Crown witnesses who testified they saw a large man on a bicycle near where Rowbotham's body was found.

While the witnesses said it was unusual to see a cyclist in the dead of a late-October night on a rural highway, Killeen pointed out that none could identify Stobbe as the man. They also gave varying descriptions of the cyclist, he added.

The Crown was to present its final submission Wednesday.

The jury is expected to begin deliberations next week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A flowery way to raise money for Cancer Society

Canadian Cancer Society Manitoba Division's fundraising co-ordinator Heidi Struck was busy with volunteers getting bunches of daffodils ready for delivery on Monday as part of the organization's annual Daffodil Days fundraiser. Bunches will be available at hospitals, malls and Walmart locations across the province until March 24. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Another reason to spring clean — help out Sally Ann

Salvation Army Thrift Store employees Charlotte Shivdatt, left, and Chelsea Desbois, would love to see more donations coming their way. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Sally Ann is sending out an SOS.

The Salvation Army Thrift Stores across Western Canada are currently experiencing a slowdown in donations and are hoping the public can help.

"We're in need more now than we have been in years," said Scott Gilmore, marketing co-ordinator at Salvation Army NRO West, adding that with spring cleaning, "it's a great time for us to get more donations. We also have flood victims and fire victims to help."

Gilmore said 100 per cent of the profit from the thrift stores goes to services provided by the Christian organization.

Chelsea Desbois, manager of the Salvation Army Thrift Store at Empress Street, said many items are needed but topping the list are housewares, such as plates.

"Our whole business thrives on donations," she added, as about a dozen customers milled about the store.

Top items needed

- Clothing
- Toys
- Furniture (minus large items such as appliances)
- Household items such as linens and plates

"We have a lot of people coming in here — it's high-traffic."

Assistant manager Charlotte Shivdatt said that the Empress store gets about 250 customers on average per day.

Donations, such as clean and usable clothing, linens and shoes, can be dropped off at any Salvation Army Thrift Store or, in the case of larger pieces or several bags' worth of donations, the items will be picked up.

For more information on what can be donated and for pickups, call 1-800-757-4483.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Canadian Football League

LaPolice signs contract extension with Blue Bombers

Winnipeg Blue Bomber head coach Paul LaPolice has signed a two-year extension with the team.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed.

"Over his first two seasons as head coach, (LaPolice) has shown tremendous progress and leadership," said Vice-President of Football Operations and General Manager Joe Mack in a press release.

LaPolice is entering his third season at the helm of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and orchestrated one of the biggest turnarounds in CFL history, taking his squad that finished last place in 2010 and guiding them to an East Division championship last year and an appearance in the 99th Grey Cup in Vancouver. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Winnipeg Blue Bombers head coach Paul LaPolice throws the ball on Grey Cup weekend in Vancouver last November. NATHAN DENNETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CTU investigating

Health of woman hit by car Monday improving: Police

The condition of the pedestrian hit by a car in Crestview Monday morning has improved.

Emergency personnel were called to the scene near Buchannan Boulevard and Portage Avenue shortly after 7 a.m. after a Ford Explorer making a northbound turn struck a 29-year-old woman walking eastbound on the north side of the avenue.

After initially being taken to hospital in critical condition, police said Tuesday the woman's condition has since improved.

Alcohol and speed are not considered factors in the collision, and members of the Central Traffic Unit continue to investigate. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Should your employer be your 'friend'?

Robert Collins of Baltimore was asked for his Facebook login and password during an interview for a job as a security guard.
STEVE RUARK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social media. Some companies and government agencies are asking job applicants for access to their Facebook account

In their efforts to vet job applicants, some companies and U.S. government agencies are going beyond merely glancing at a person's social networking profile and instead are asking to log in as the user to have a look around.

Questions have been raised about the legality of the practice, which is the focus of proposed legislation in Illinois and Maryland that would forbid public agencies from asking for access to social networks.

Since the rise of social networking, it has become common for managers to review publicly available Facebook profiles, Twitter accounts and other sites to learn more about job candidates. But many users, especially on Facebook, have their profiles set to private, making them available only to selected people or certain networks.

Companies that don't ask for passwords have taken other steps — such as asking applicants to friend human resource managers or to log in to a company computer during an interview.

Asking for a candidate's password is more prevalent among public agencies, especially those seeking to fill law enforcement positions such as police officers.

Back in 2010, Robert Collins was returning to his job as a security guard at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services after taking a leave following his mother's death. During a reinstatement interview, he was asked for his login and password, purportedly so the agency could check for any gang affiliations. He was stunned by the request, but complied.

"I needed my job to feed my family. I had to," he recalled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Privacy concerns

"It's akin to requiring someone's house keys.... (It's) an egregious privacy violation."

Orin Kerr, law professor
George Washington University

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Police fear French gunman may have ties to neo-Nazis

Shootings. President Nicolas Sarkozy has raised the terror alert and added 14 new units of riot police to the region after attack

Police searched southern France on Tuesday for an expert gunman suspected of fatally shooting seven people in the head at close range in attacks that may have been motivated by neo-Nazi ties or grudges against minorities.

The shooter is suspected of carrying out three deadly attacks: one leaving four people dead on Monday at a Jewish school in Toulouse, three of them young children; killing two French paratroopers and seriously wounding another last Thursday in nearby Montauban; and fatally shooting another paratrooper in Toulouse on March 11.

All the victims in the school attack were Jewish with duel French-Israeli citizenship, and the paratroopers were of North African or French Caribbean origin.

The shots were fired at such close range that the gunfire burned the skin, prosecutor Francois Molins said Tuesday.

"We are confronted with an individual extremely determined in his actions, an armed individual who acts always with the same modus operandi," he said, "in cold blood ... with premeditated actions."

He added the crimes appear to be premeditated due to the killer's "choices of victims and the choices of his targets" — the army, the foreign origin of the victims or their religion. The killer could "act again," he said.

Interior Minister Claude Gueant described the suspect as "someone very cold, very determined, very much a master of his movements, and by consequence, very cruel."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mourners follow the hearse carrying the coffins of the victims following a ceremony at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish school, in France, where a gunman killed four people. REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earthquake in Mexico City topples buildings and sends terrified residents fleeing

A woman comforts her crying children outside a school in the Roma neighbourhood after an earthquake was felt in Mexico City on Tuesday. A strong, long earthquake with its epicentre in Guerrero state shook central southern Mexico, swaying buildings in Mexico City and sending frightened workers and residents into the streets. More than 60 homes were damaged near the epicentre. Fear and panic spread as a less powerful, magnitude-5.1 aftershock was also felt in the capital, where there were no reports of deaths by press time. ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Lawyer: Slain teen's girlfriend heard fight that led to shooting

The attorney for the family of a black teenager fatally shot by a neighbourhood-watch captain said Tuesday that the boy was talking to his girlfriend on his cellphone when the confrontation began. She heard an exchange of words, what sounded like a scuffle, but not the shooting.

The phone call was discussed at a news conference that followed announcements that the U.S. Justice Department would probe the death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin and that a local grand jury will also consider evidence in the case.

George Zimmerman, 28, claims he shot Martin in self-defence during the confrontation last month in a gated community in Sanford, Fla.

Attorney Benjamin Crump, who represents Martin's parents, said he plans to turn over information about the call to federal investigators who are looking into the case. The Justice Department announced their involvement late Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trayvon Martin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/MARTIN FAMILY

Off-colour joke. Obama criticized for Robert De Niro's joke at event

In a country that asked itself just four short years ago if it was ready for its first black president, a joke by famed actor Robert De Niro at a star-studded Manhattan fundraiser for U.S. President Barack Obama has caused a curious stir.

"Callista Gingrich. Karen Santorum. Ann Romney. Now, do you really think our country is ready for a white first lady?" the actor said to roars of laughter from a crowd that included Michelle Obama.

When someone in the audience yelled: "No!" DeNiro continued, "Too soon, right?" But in a nation where hot-button race issues loom large, Obama's re-election campaign team was quick to distance itself from the remark while Newt Gingrich, the Republican presidential hopeful with a fondness for hyperbole, demanded the president apologize for it.

"We believe the joke was inappropriate," Olivia Alair, campaign press secretary to Michelle Obama, said in a statement.

Gingrich went much further, calling it "inexcusable."

"On behalf of my wife and on behalf of Karen Santorum and on behalf of Ann Romney — I think that Robert De Niro's wrong," Gingrich said at a campaign stop in Louisiana. "I think the country is ready for a new first lady and he doesn't have to describe it in racial terms."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man walks past an ad featuring models in Tel Aviv. ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli law bans too-thin models

Image issue. Groundbreaking legislation aims to encourage realistic portrayals in local advertising

Told she was too fat to be a model, Danielle Segal shed a quarter of her original 116-pound weight and was hospitalized twice for malnutrition. The girl weighed 88 pounds by then, or about as much as a robust preteen, and her health suffered.

Now that a new Israeli law prohibits the employment of underweight models, the 19-year-old must gain some of it back if she wants to work again.

The legislation passed this week aims to put a stop to the extremes, and by extension ease the pressure on youngsters to emulate the skin-and-bones models, often resulting in dangerous eating disorders.

The new law poses a challenge to a fashion industry widely castigated for promoting anorexia and bulimia. Its sponsors say it could become an example for other countries grappling with the spread of the life-threatening disorders.

The law requires models to produce a medical report no more than three months old at every shoot for the Israeli market, stating that they are not malnourished, according to World Health Organization standards. About 2 per cent of teenage Israeli girls have severe eating disorders, experts said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Moment

DOLLAR
100.83¢ US
(-0.44¢)

TSX
12,430.7 (-48.99)

OIL
$105.61 US (-$2.48)

GOLD
$1,647 US (-$20.30)

Natural gas: $2.335 US (-1.6¢)
Dow Jones: 13,170.19 (-68.94)

Occupational safety

Walmart guilty in workplace death

Walmart says it has pleaded guilty to three workplace safety charges in the death of a teenage worker in New Brunswick last year.

The retail giant was charged under the Occupational Health and Safety Act after a 17-year-old employee at a store in Grand Falls was electrocuted on Jan. 5, 2011.

Patrick Desjardins was using a floor buffer on a wet floor in a garage at the time.

The agency issued several orders against Walmart after the death and it says the company has complied with those orders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour laws. Air Canada unions challenge stay-at-work legislation

Pilots union issues legal challenge. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two of Air Canada's largest employee groups are launching constitutional challenges against federal legislation that prevents a strike or lockout at the country's largest carrier.

The union representing pilots said Tuesday that it filed suit in Ontario Superior Court, while the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers added it will soon pursue its own effort.

The pilots said the Protecting Air Service Act prohibits pilots from exercising their right to strike and contravenes three sections of the charter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCARY LIT RAISES SPECTRE OF GORE-STOKED GENERATION

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Now that my own children are grown and there's nothing I can do about them, it's time to start worrying about the next generation.

After all, they're the ones who are going to find me in my single room buried under mouldy Starbucks venti lattes and ship me off to the state geezer preserve.

And if what they're up to right now is any indication, I have no reason to expect compassion.

I started thinking about the next generation after hearing that Judy Blume's novels are about to be turned into ebooks. And publishers are worried that today's kids, raised on a steady diet of vampires, human sacrifice and Grand Theft Auto, will find her books bland and boring.

This was once the most banned author in North America, whose most banned book (Forever) opened with the following line: "Sybil Davison has a genius I.Q. and has been laid by at least six different guys."

That got you banned in 1975, but these days it's so tame that even the censors can't work up enough jam to read it, even if they can download it instantly.

'Blood and sacrifice'

"These days, you have to add blood and sacrifice for kids to stop sexting and virtually stoning each other on Am I Ugly and read instead."

These days, you have to add blood and sacrifice for kids to stop sexting and virtually stoning each other on Am I Ugly and read instead. The average teenager sends 60 text messages a day and spends more than seven hours a day "using" media, 80 per cent of it social media.

When Judy Blume was freaking out parents and librarians, there was no Internet. You had to look into a mirror to find out if you were ugly. Now you post a photo on the Internet and let the world have its way with you.

So what are we raising? Pretty little bloodthirsty, depraved, techno-robotic, Borg-minded, crypto-fascist, superstitious sociopaths? Maybe.

At least they can help you unlock your cellphone.

When my kids were young, the biggest threat to their mental health was V.C. Andrews, who dealt in incest and various forms of abuse. Plus she was a terrible writer. By comparison, Judy Blume was Shakespeare. Of course, nobody reads him anymore either, not as long as we have Suzanne Collins (The Hunger Games) or Stephanie Meyer (Twilight).

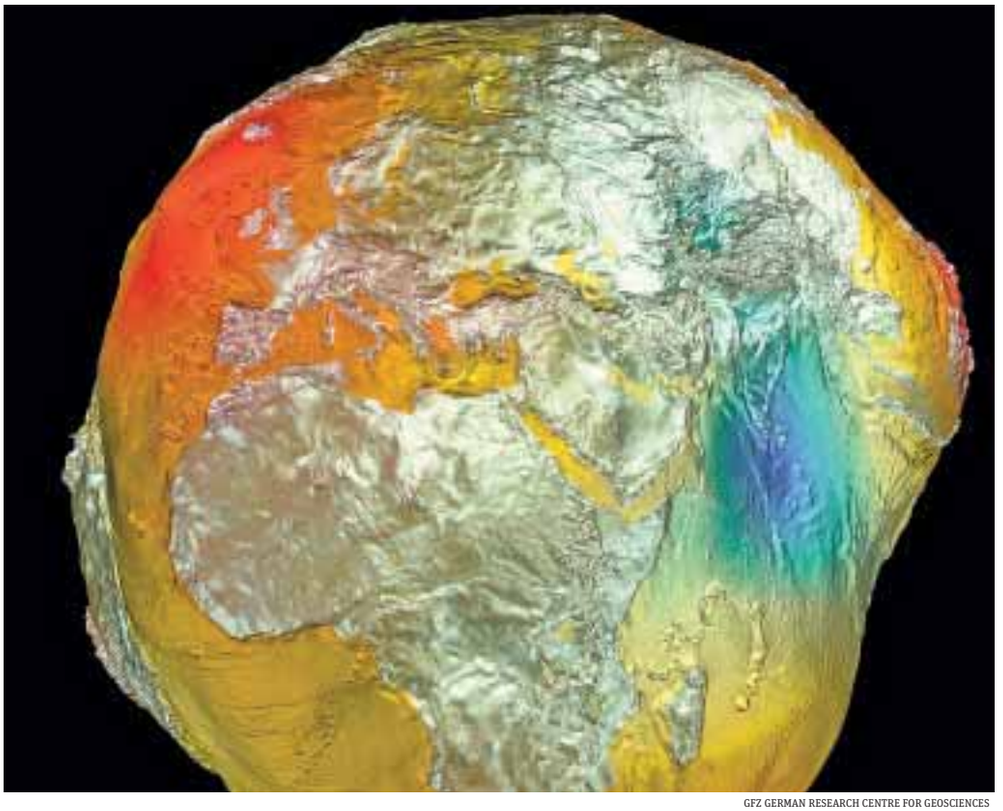
Today, "writing" is a kind of delivery mechanism, like a syringe or a hand-held rocket launcher. Ideas are no longer than 140 characters and something gets killed at the end.

For those who still remember, it's like Brave New World meets Lord of the Flies.

With zombies.

Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in a scene from The Hunger Games based on Suzanne Collins' novel. MURRAY CLOSE/LIONSGATE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Planet 'potato' down to earth



GFZ GERMAN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GEOSCIENCES

3-D mapping

Map shows how Earth changes

For most of us, our planet is spherical in shape, but for some German geoscientists tracking planetary changes, it looks like a potato. Based on data from NASA satellites, the "Potsdam Gravity Potato" is a 3-D mapping that reveals how melting ice has changed Earth's gravity. MWN

Gravity field

"When the mass of Greenland's ice sheet changes, so does the gravity there. Gravity field measurements give us information on mass changes, including climate-related ones."

Frank Flechtner, expert from GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences

Geoscience

'Potato' based on Newton's law

"This is not a gimmick," the Potsdam-based scientists say. The "Gravity Potato," first developed in 1995, is based on one of Newton's laws that states an object's gravity depends on its mass. Earth's uneven distribution of mass means varying gravitational pull on the surface. MWN

This year's 'potato'

The bulge rises in Japan

- The bulge in Far East Asia shows the dramatic changes in solid earth as a result of Japan's earthquakes in 2011.

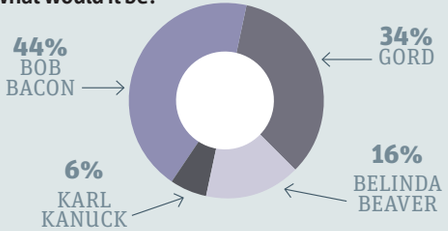
Loss of ice mass = sea rise

- Greenland's ice shield had 240 gigatons of mass loss between 2002 and 2011, corresponding to a sea level rise of 0.7 mm per year.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

If you were to get a cellphone under a fake name, what would it be?



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@NirbirG
What do you do when your printer runs out of ink? Buy another printer #firstworldpains

@wpgjets2011
Next election, I am voting for anyone who promises to put child molesters away for life. @TheoFleury14 @pmharper . #CollectiveWill.

@JayOnrait
My L.A. to Toronto flight is making a quick stop in Denver. Turns out I've been asked to escort Tim Tebow to Canada to begin his CFL career.

@DowntownPeggy
Realizing my last few posts have an inadvertent theme: cats, coyotes, and now lions. Maybe my brain's more organized than I thought?

@canadianstryker
#Winnipeg needs to figure out its weather... +24C one day only +5C the next... next week a -2C damn you mother nature!

metro
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‘Not your everyday villain’

Alexander Ludwig is photographed by fans as he arrives on the red carpet for the premiere of The Hunger Games on Monday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Golden boy. New on the scene, Alexander Ludwig says fans don’t mind he plays a trained killer in The Hunger Games

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

At six-feet, two-inches with all-American good looks (even though he was born in Vancouver), Alexander Ludwig doesn’t look like a super villain. But to fans of The Hunger Games he is the baddest baddie of them all, Cato, the brute from District 2.

“He was born and raised a killer and that’s all he knew how to do,” says the 20-year-old actor.

“But he’s not your everyday villain. There’s a lot more substance and depth to this guy. You can tell he’s had a tortured life.”

Trained as a killer, Cato has spent his whole life preparing for his turn in The Hunger Games, a kind of murderous reality show.

“I’m playing the most feared guy in the arena so I didn’t know how I was going to be received by everyone else in the cast,” he says of his co-stars Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. “I was cautious about it, but everyone was amazing.”

One thing is for sure; he made an impression on one stunt man.

“I hit a stunt guy across the face with the butt end of a rubber bat when I was filming,” he says, “but once you do that you have keep going because they’re going to kick your ass if you don’t. ‘What are you doing? That was the perfect sell because you actually hit me.’ I felt so bad.”

He says that despite the movie’s dark subject matter and the odd bruised stunt man, the mood on set was light.

“It is important to have contrast when the material is so dark. There’s all this tense energy and right after they yell, ‘Cut’ you can breathe.”

He’s also breathing a little easier now the movie is done and fans have embraced him.

“I have been so, so happy about the way I have been received because it could go either way,” he says.

“Everyone’s been very excited to see me and meet me. No one has said, ‘Screw you, Cato!’ I hope it stays like this. Everyone likes being liked and I chose this role knowing that it could go the other way.”

“I’m just riding this crazy experience. You really can’t think about it because you don’t know what to expect. Every day is a new experience.

I walked out of my hotel room this morning and there were fans outside. I can’t believe this is happening to me. It’s wild.”

If looks could kill

“Everyone’s been very excited to see me and meet me. No one has said, ‘Screw you, Cato!’ I hope it stays like this. Everyone likes being liked and I chose this role knowing that it could go the other way.”

Actor Alexander Ludwig,
on playing the evil Cato in The Hunger Games.

When it’s ‘every man for himself’

Hungry for blood. Why do we love movies about people forced to hunt and kill each other?

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

If you’ve read The Hunger Games novels, you’re likely excited about the big screen adaptation hitting theatres this Friday. The story of a dystopian world where children killing children is a national pastime — think American Idol, only with knives — was a mega-hit in book stores and promises to pack theatres.

But if the movie lineups are enough to keep you away from the theatre on Saturday night, here are some similar themed movies to get you in the mood.

Battle Royale is the ultra-violent Japanese cousin to The Hunger Games. The movie is a futuristic nightmare about a group of kids who are shipped off to a remote island and forced to wage war against one another until only one remains.

The film’s bloody conflict enraged the Japanese censors who tried to ban the movie, but their plan backfired. Slapping a tough R15 rating on the film only increased people’s desire to see it. “Because it was forbidden,” says director Kinji Fukasaku, “they wanted to watch it even more.”

Also breathing the same air is Series 7: The Contenders, a parody of reality television where contestants hunt down and murder one another. This gory satire won a passing grade from Roger Ebert who said, “It’s not the idea that people will kill each other for entertainment that makes Series 7 jolting. What the movie correctly perceives is that somewhere along the line we’ve lost all sense of shame in our society.”

The idea of televising human blood sports isn’t new to the reality TV era, however. Years before Survivor made the phrase, “You’ve been voted off the island” a household term, Steven King and Arnold Schwarzenegger unleashed The Running Man on audiences.

Arnold plays a wrongly convicted man fighting for his survival on a TV game show, overseen by Family Feud host Richard Dawson.

“I’ll be back!” Arnold says, mimicking his Terminator catchphrase. “Only in a rerun,” says Dawson, who hopes Arnold bites it and gives the show a spike in ratings.

Finally, director Norman Jewison imagined a theme similar to The Hunger Games in his 1975 film Rollerball. Set in 2018, it’s about a deadly sport that combines roller derby, hockey, football and a generous helping of violence. The movie’s style seems a bit dated but the ideas aren’t. Jewisons’ prophetic take on violence, the influence of corporations and the state of entertainment are bang on.

Elizabeth Banks, left, and Jennifer Lawrence star in The Hunger Games. HANDOUT

2 SCENE

Virgin space travellers

Kutcher signs up

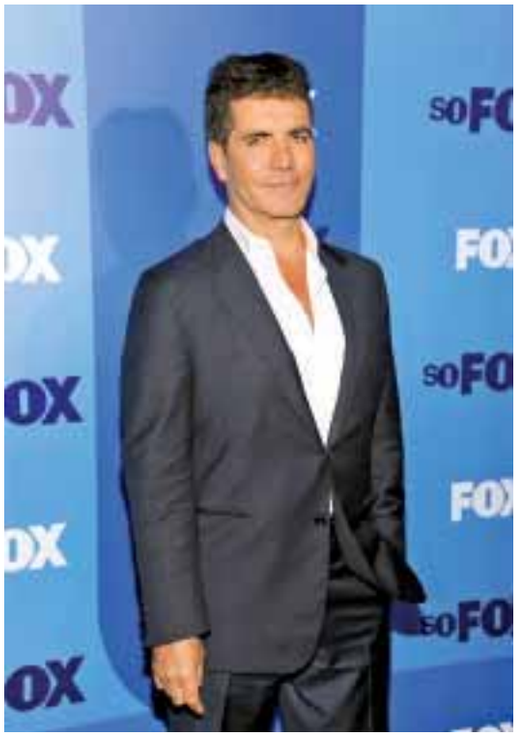
Richard Branson says his venture to launch paying tourists into space has netted its 500th customer, and it’s none other than Ashton Kutcher. Branson made the announcement on his blog Monday. He called the actor to congratulate him and said Kutcher is thrilled at the prospect of being among the first to cross “the final frontier” aboard Virgin Galactic. Virgin Galactic is in the final stages of its test flight program. The company plans to launch its spacecraft from Spaceport America, a special terminal and runway built in southern New Mexico’s desert.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Kevin Costner’s lawyers tell SD high court actor did not breach contract with sculpture artist

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Simon Cowell

Cowell considering killing off X Factor if ratings continue to dip

Despite all the rumors about negotiating with Britney Spears to come on board as a judge, Simon Cowell may have altogether different plans for the U.S. edition of the X Factor — and they involve cancelling the show altogether.

"I'd rather fall off the cliff on numbers than deteriorate slowly," Cowell said at a press conference for the launch of another season of Britain's Got Talent.

"We have something in development, which could replace The X Factor."

Quote

"I'd rather fall off the cliff on numbers than deteriorate slowly."

Simon Cowell
speaking about X-Factor's ratings.

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The Word

Is Kim Zolciak jacking Jessica Simpson's swagger?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Kim Zolciak must be getting tired of Jessica Simpson stealing the blond-weave-wearing-pregnant-lady spotlight, as it was announced yesterday that she and husband Kroy Biermann, 26, are wasting no time expanding their family. After giving birth to their son, Kroy Jagger (KJ) Jr., last May, Life & Style is exclusively reporting that the couple is expecting their second baby.

"Kroy and I are so excited," Kim, 33, tells the magazine. "To decide we wanted to get pregnant again and have it happen so quickly was such a blessing."

I'd go all conspiracy theorist on you and say Kim and Kroy (ed note: What the hell kind of name is "Kroy"? Is that a mash-up of "Kyle" and "Troy"?) are just now revealing this news to bring attention to the TV special about their lavish November wedding, Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding, which premieres on April 26 at 9 p.m. on Bravo.

But, come on: anyone who films their wedding for reality TV and then calls it Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding will of course try to capitalize off of a pregnancy.

There's no conspiracy about it.

Jon Hamm

Hamm at odds with public's perception of his good looks

Jon Hamm finds himself at odds with the rest of the world in thinking that he's handsome.

"I don't necessarily think of myself like the handsome guy. That's reserved for Brad Pitt and Ryan Reynolds and those guys," the Mad Men star tells Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

"It's certainly nice when people say nice things about you, don't get me wrong. I guess I never really thought of myself that way."

Goldie Hawn

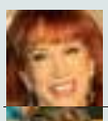
Goldie Hawn denies saying Hudson married rock star boyfriend

Goldie Hawn set off a rash of speculation that daughter Kate Hudson had already secretly wed fiancé Matt Bellamy when she told ES magazine,

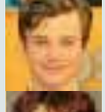
"When my daughter Kate married an English rock star it didn't worry me."

But Hawn doesn't stand by the quote. When a Twitter follower asked her, "So are Kate and Matt really married, or are the press twisting your words?" Hawn responded, "Darling, once again twisted the words. They aren't married."

Twitter



@kathygriffin
Larry the dog got out & was missing ALL DAY! Got a call & WHO rescued him? @KalPenn! #Random #grateful



@chriscolfer
My goldfish have love handles. I may be over feeding them...

@diablocody
Currently watching a dad TIE his daughter to a piece of playground equipment so she can't fall off. He's using police tape, which makes it extra weird.

@AlbertBrooks
If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it still could be a chicken doing impressions.

Exhibit helps MythBusters take their show on the road

Museum. Discovery Channel program creates a science-based exhibit at a museum in Chicago, with plans to tour the showcase

Who gets wetter, someone walking in the rain or running? Is it really possible to hang from a cliff by your fingers until help arrives like they do in the movies? And is Superman the only one who is faster than a speeding bullet?

Those are questions the Discovery Channel's MythBusters has asked for years, and starting last week, anybody who's wondered how long it takes to put on a superhero outfit in a phone booth — don't forget the cape — can answer them for themselves at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition, opened March 15, marking the first time the show has taken such questions on the road. The Chicago exhibition, which runs through Sept. 3, is the first of a planned national tour that will include stops at several other U.S. cities.

"This has both the science and also a sense of humour, what we've been doing for a decade," Adam Savage, one of the show's hosts, said this week before the exhibition opened.

Just like on the show, the exhibit is a kind of scientific bait and switch. It starts with something visitors have seen in the movies or on TV or that they can recall from their own experiences.

"That's the hook," said Jamie Hyneman, also a MythBusters co-host. "That gets them involved and before they know what happens they've actually learned something or been lured into thinking carefully about what's going on."

The exhibit consists of about a dozen stations mixed in with props familiar to viewers, like the actual casket Hyneman lay in for a segment on being buried alive. In one station shaped like a ship cargo container, a visitor walks and another runs while water drips from hoses above. Once they're wet, they go around the corner and, because the water contains traces of fluorescent dye, they can see just how many drops hit them as they stand in front of a black light.

After determining which one of them is wetter, the participants press either the run or walk button. The results will be stored for now and revealed when the show leaves in September.

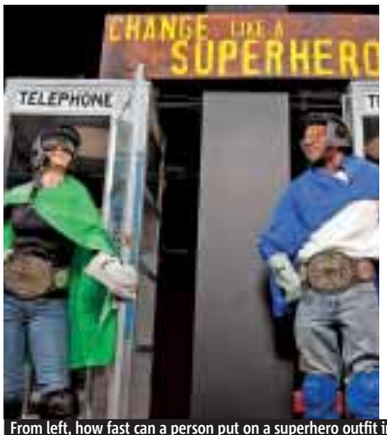
There is another exhibit for anyone who's wondered if a blind Al Pacino really could have navigated a car through the streets of New York in Scent of a Woman based on the directions given by a terrified Chris O'Donnell from the passenger seat. With the help of video-arcade style equipment, visitors can see if they do as well as Pacino or better than Hyneman and Savage did on the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **Mythbusters.** Through Sept. 3 at Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago; msichicago.org or 773-684-1414. Open daily 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Timed ticketing; adults, $25, children 3-11, $18 (general admission plus $10).

Jamie Hyneman, left, and Adam Savage, stars of Mythbusters, stand outside the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. J.B. SPECTOR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



From left, how fast can a person put on a superhero outfit in a phone booth? The Mythbusters open the exhibit in Chicago last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 LIFE

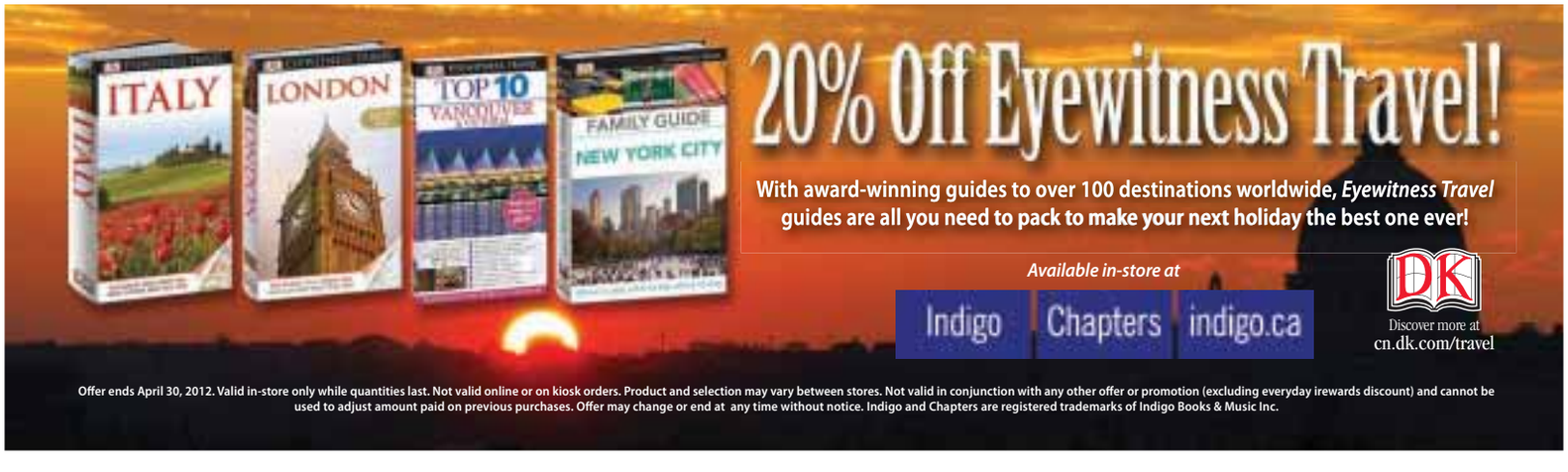
Travel in brief

No free music at festival

After three years of financial losses, the showcase summer festival Taste of Chicago will start charging music fans if they want concert seats. Taste of Chicago performances at the 3,000-seat Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park had been free, but the city wants to charge $25 a ticket this year, Mayor Rahm Emanuel said Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Edgar Degas' Impressionism stripped bare in Paris: forget dancers, this time its nudes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Eastern Quebec has plenty for the flower lover

Eastern Townships. La Belle Province is dotted with quaint towns and villages

MEL BORINS
Metro World News

It's not all roses at Rose des Champs.

What does lavender, rosehips, luxury trains, gourmet cuisine and fabulous country inns have in common? Who would have guessed the Eastern Townships of Quebec? The Eastern Townships are made up of a number of towns and villages to the South East of Montreal.

About 50 minutes east of Montreal is the charming Victorian village of Knowlton, famous for its Loyalist roots and heritage buildings. We stayed our first night close to Knowlton at a four-star inn Auberge Quilliams. The Inn has great canoeing and kayaking. The beach across the road in front of Lac Brome was a quiet place to unwind.

Close to Auberge Quilliams we visited two tourist sights that were inspiring: Rose des Champs and Bleu Lavande.

We also spent an evening on the Orford Express Train belonging to the conductor and priest Father Donald Thompson.

The beach of Lac Brome offers some spectacular wildlife watching. PHOTOS: MEL BORINS/METRO

Conductor Father Donald Thompson.

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Relaxation

Lavender fields

I adore the smell of lavender and just a few minutes south of the quaint town of Magog, there is Bleu Lavande, the dream child of Pierre Pellerin. Pierre had a successful electronics business but at the age of 42 fell sick with a neurological disease that seemed to be stress related. He sold his business and bought the 160 acre property and along with his wife Christine began planting lavender, and the rest is another dream come true. I loved walking through the stunning fields of flowering plants.

A foot massage with lavender oil out in the middle of the lavender field was delightfully relaxing.

The bite-sized San Francisco

Food trucks are a big deal in San Francisco, so we got Kate McEachern, founder of local cupcake truck Cupkates, to talk us through her city's hot spots

METRO WORLD NEWS

First time?

For those that usually ignore the clichéd recommendations in travel guides, play the tourist for once. San Francisco has some amazing attractions and you don't want to miss them. Your first stop should be Fort Point. Its vantage point overlooking Golden Gate Bridge offers amazing views.

Been there before?

Once you've seen all of the staple tourist spots, I'd recommend a trip to Golden Gate Park (goldengate-park.com). Go for tea at the Japanese Tea House and Garden or simply walk around the gardens. The California Academy of Sciences (calacademy.org), one of the world's largest natural history museums, is a fun daytime outing whether you're with family or friends. I always head straight to the living roof. Designed by architect Renzo Piano, the roof consists of undulating green hillocks and 1.7 million native plants, mimicking the city's topography.

Go out

If you want a chilled but fun Friday night out then head over to the De Young Museum (deyoung.famsf.org). It stays open late, keeping people entertained with the bar and live music. Bubble Lounge champagne bar (bubblelounge.com) is perfect for a girls' night out. Although, by no means does this mean boys aren't allowed to join the party.

Stay in

For those on a budget, Hotel des Arts, located in the French Quarter, is an eclectic boutique close to Union Square, perfect if you had a day of shopping planned (sfhotel-desarts.com). If you have a bit more to spend, in the mid-range price is Hotel Del Sol. This is a joyful-kid friendly place to stay.

Eat

Some of the city's best food comes from a truck. Off the Grid (offthegridsf.com) is a bustling roving market with gourmet food trucks selling anything from my cupcakes to 'eat curbside's' deep fried Mac n Cheese.

On Friday nights, the Fort Mason market has a bar and music, making it a really great (and super cheap!) way to spend the evening. Nick's Crispy Tacos (at 1500 Broadway) makes the most amazing fried fish pescado tacos (ask for them made "Nick's Way") and carnitas (braised pork) in town.

If you're craving pizza, there's no other place than Una Pizza Napoletana (unapizza.com/sf). The place is small and the owner Anthony Mangieri makes pizza to order using an oven placed in the middle of the dining room.

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Start spring off on a sweet note with a treat for big and little kids

Chocolate Mango Mousse. This easy, do-ahead dessert is a great way to incorporate chocolate without over indulging

Because this is a chilled dessert, you can make it ahead of time and not worry about things coming out of the oven at the right time when you're busy trying to impress those picky dinner guests.

To make it into a restaurant-worthy dish, spoon the Chocolate Mango Mousse into parfait glasses and top with fresh berries.

The combination of chocolate and fruit creates an ideal balance for those who want a more grown-up dessert.

Ingredients

4 portions
Start to finish: 30 minutes, plus chilling

- 250 ml (1 cup) frozen mango chunks, thawed
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) homogenized milk
- 1 whole egg, plus 1 yolk
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) cornstarch
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) milk chocolate bits
- 250 ml (1 cup) heavy cream

1 Fill a medium bowl with ice.

2 In a blender, combine the thawed mango chunks, sugar, milk, whole egg and yolk, and cornstarch. Purée until completely it is smooth.

3 Pour the mixture into a small saucepan over medium heat. Whisking constantly, heat the mixture until it thickens and comes to a boil. Remove from heat and add the milk chocolate bits. Stir until the chocolate is melted and thoroughly incorporated.

4 Place the saucepan in a bowl of ice; ensure that none of the ice gets into the saucepan. Whisk the mixture until it is completely cooled and smooth.

5 In a large bowl, place the heavy cream. Use an electric mixer to beat it until medium peaks form, 3 to 5 minutes.

6 Add half of the beaten cream to the milk chocolate-mango mixture and fold together to incorporate. Add remaining cream and fold again to incorporate.

7 Transfer the Chocolate Mango Mousse to 4 individual serving dishes and refrigerate until you are ready to serve it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chocolate Mango Mousse

The chocolate flavours aren't overpowering. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Chocolate Seduction

Chocolate and vodka combine to make a romantic cocktail that is pure magic.

Seduce your lover or your favourite foodie with this special drink.

1 Combine vodka, coffee, nut and chocolate liqueurs in a shaker with ice. Shake and strain into two cocktail glasses. Top with chocolate. Makes 2 servings.

- 2 oz vodka
- 1 oz coffee liqueur
- 1 oz nut liqueur (such as Frangelico or Amaretto)
- 1 oz chocolate liqueur
- Grated bittersweet chocolate

RECIPE AND PHOTO: ICEBERG VODKA

Nation-to-nation navigation: Interviews across the pond

East to West. Keep cultural differences in mind during a job interview abroad

LIN ABDUL RAHMAN
Talentegg.ca

Canadian employers often value confidence in a potential hire. ISTOCK

Do you remember the AT&T commercial where a man insults his Chinese business associate when he mispronounces the associate's name?

The commercial highlights the importance of clarity and precision in communication, and it also underscores the cultural nuances that we encounter at our increasingly global workplaces. These situations may seem funny in retrospect, but if they're not handled properly they may have serious consequences not only for the employee but for the company as well.

And these cultural distinctions extend far beyond the spoken language. I've had work experience in several culturally distinct countries and I can safely say the attitudes employers expect to see in a candidate also vary greatly from one country to another.

In Malaysia — a country heavily influenced by its Eastern morals and values — modesty, respect and courtesy are some of the characteristics candidates are expected to possess and display. This is not to say that employers in Western countries do not appreciate such values — quite the contrary.

However, in Malaysian culture, reverence and respect for elders, and by extension those higher up in the social hierarchy, are expected virtues in any individual. These qualities are therefore crucial in dealing with clients and associates.

As a result, candidates are expected to demonstrate these values during the interview process at great lengths, and then some.

Along the same vein, candidates are also expected to acknowledge an organization's inherent hierarchy, be it a formal or informal one. Of course, it goes without saying that falling in line is expected in any company anywhere on the globe. As the saying goes, 'You have to go along in order to get along.'

However, in Malaysia, it's crucial that a candidate displays a certain readiness, or even an eagerness, to fit into the existing pecking order. It might seem superficial or perhaps somewhat trivial, but it's crucial nonetheless as it is seen as a manifestation of the candidate's respect toward his or her superiors.

From the job interviews I've had in Australia and Canada — not all of them successful, naturally — I've found that ambition, confidence and being proactive are highly regarded by employers. These qualities are often the determining factors for whether an interview is successful or not.

Here in Canada, candidates are expected to possess high self esteem and feel confident about 'selling' themselves to employers. This is perhaps the greatest distinction between the work cultures in Canada and Malaysia.Numerous other facets of a culture come into play in determining on whether or not a candidate has had a successful interview and it is impossible to list them all.

Suffice it to say that it is good to develop a feel for the subtleties that exist within any given culture in order to gage what an employer might expect to see in a candidate.

LIN ABDUL RAHMAN IS A JOURNALISM STUDENT WITH A MINOR IN HUMAN RIGHTS AT LAURIER BRANTFORD. SHE IS ORIGINALLY FROM MALAYSIA AND NOW CALLS CANADA HOME. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Students

Population

International post-secondary students made up about 7.7% of the total student population and 6.3% of graduates in Canada in 2010. More than one third of international students attend school in Ontario.

Welcome to Canada!

The number of international post-secondary students in Canada is on the rise:

- **2004/2005.** 110,448
- **2005/2006.** 118,707
- **2006/2007.** 120,402
- **2007/2008.** 123,309
- **2008/2009.** 129,636
- **2009/2010.** 146,928

From abroad

Origins

Top 3 regions of origin of international students (2008):

- Asia: 52.7%
- Europe: 17.9%
- Africa: 11.8%

ALL DATA COURTESY OF STATISTICS CANADA

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Make the most of your break

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Ideas. Keep your kids busy with a variety of fresh activities during your week off

Looking to shake things up this March break? If you are looking for fresh ideas on what to do with the kids this coming week, here are six activities to try.

COOK TOGETHER
Improvise dinner by grabbing a globe. No, really. Spin it, select a country and make a dish together from that country.

"So with your children you search for recipes, shop and cook the meal together," says Tracie Wagman, the Toronto-based publisher of Help! We've Got Kids.

Or Wagman suggests staging some cupcake wars: Invite your child's friends over and divide the group into teams.

TEAM UP
Melanie Rose, a Toronto-based mom of two children, has connected with three other mothers to create "Mommy Camp."

"Each mom takes all three girls for one day and we spend the last day as a group. Each day we exposed the girls to different experiences chosen by the day's mom," she says. "Last year's highlights included yoga in the park, a visit to the textile museum, pedicures and painting with chocolate."

GET OUTSIDE
"If the weather's nice, I like taking my kids to parks or zoos," says Wagman. But make it interesting and bypass the park you hit all summer. "Go on the Internet and pick one with the kids. Then you map it out together and explore," suggests Wagman.

THINK CHARITABLY
If you have older children, get them to declutter their stuff. But make it fun. If you have reluctant donators on your hands, you could offer them a trade: 10 of their toys to donate for one new one, says Wagman.

Or you could help your child organize a toy drive in the neighbourhood. Invite friends and neighbours to collect items that you and your child can help organize and donate to a charitable organization they choose.

TAKE ADVANTAGE ...
... of deals you can't normally score during the weekday. March break tends to feature lots of local theatre shows and afternoon movie showings at cheaper matinee prices.

CREATE YOUR OWN REALITY SHOW
If you have a Nintendo Wii system or an Xbox, fire up your dance-themed video games to stage your own So You Think You Can Dance, suggests Wagman.

Invite your children's friends over to compete in the dance games, complete with judges ranking the dancers. End with the group choreographing its own number.

Stage cupcake wars by inviting your child's friends over.
STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No reason to be bored

If you are a parent stuck in town with no plans and a limited budget, figuring out how to entertain the little ones for a week or two can be exhausting. Here are some ideas:

Go on a mini road trip. Visit a town that you are not familiar with and spend time walking around, taking in the sights, dining at local eateries, and meeting the people.

Visit your local library. Pick up a book to learn some arts and crafts, research fun recipes, borrow kid-friendly DVDs, or check if the library is running any special March break programs.

Board games. Remember what those are? Playing a board game is a great way to spend time together as a family. If your collection doesn't intrigue your kids, purchase a new game on which everyone can agree. NEWS CANADA

Try playing a board game.
STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

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NFL

Eagles trade for Texans LB Ryans

The Philadelphia Eagles made a big move to bolster the middle of their defence, acquiring two-time Pro Bowl linebacker DeMeco Ryans from the Houston Texans for a fourth-round draft pick in 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Ward retires, rather than seek a new team

Longtime Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward retired on Tuesday rather than try extending his career with another team.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hines Ward announces his retirement.
GENE J. PUSKAR/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NCAA basketball

Tar Heels ready to play without injured guard

North Carolina coach Roy Williams says his team's "preparation is 100 per cent" to play without injured point guard Kendall Marshall.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rangers-Devils brawl

"It's almost better to get it out of the way off the bat and play the game."

New York islander John Tavares on Monday's game-opening brawl between the Devils and Rangers.

Penguins' firepower proves too much for Jets to handle

NHL. Crosby has four assists in 8-4 win over Winnipeg

The Penguins celebrate a first-period goal by James Neal on Tuesday night. JUSTIN K. ALLER/GETTY IMAGES

Sidney Crosby isn't scoring goals. The way he is setting up his teammates, it hardly matters.

The Pittsburgh captain dished out four assists in his first home game in over three months, James Neal recorded his second NHL hat trick, and the Penguins crushed the Winnipeg Jets 8-4 on Tuesday night.

"You give them space and they eat you up," Winnipeg coach Claude Noel said. "That's what they did."

Repeatedly.

Evgeni Malkin added two goals — including the 200th of his NHL career — and added three assists to lift his point total to an NHL-leading 93. Pittsburgh bounced back from an overtime loss in Philadelphia on Sunday, which ended an 11-game winning streak, and pulled within a point of the Eastern Conference-leading New York Rangers.

"There were some nice hockey plays out there," Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma said. "There's some of that tape you see in some highlight videos."

Having two of the best players on the planet playing alongside each other for stretches certainly helps.

Crosby has nine points in four games since his return from concussion-like symptoms. He fed linemate Tyler Kennedy for a pair of goals and helped set up power-play tallies by Neal and Malkin.

Not bad for a guy who has played only 12 games in 14 months.

"There are still areas where I need to get sharper," said Crosby, who had over 19 minutes of ice time. "But everyone is playing so well ... (it) makes it easier for anyone coming back."

Bryan Little scored twice for the Jets. Ondrej Pavelec was pulled in the second after allowing five Penguins goals on 24 shots. The Jets remained four points behind eighth-place Washington and the Eastern Conference's post-season cutoff with nine games remaining.

Pavelec played well, but he got little help from his defence. The Jets allowed Crosby, Malkin and Neal to go wherever they wanted during a wide-open game that showcased how dynamic the Penguins can be at full strength.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

MANNING

Quoted

"I'm not where I want to be. I want to be where I was before I was injured. There's a lot of work to do to get where we want to be from a health standpoint."

Peyton Manning on his surgically repaired neck after being introduced as the Broncos' new quarterback on Tuesday in Denver. The 35-year-old star signed a five-year, $96-million US contract and said he plans to retire in Denver. Broncos vice-president John Elway, who engineered the deal, said no decision has been made on QB Tim Tebow's future.

"If Tim Tebow is here next year, I'm going to be the best teammate I can be to him."

Peyton Manning

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5 DRIVE

Top Gear

One product for all

If you have rubber, vinyl and leather — and many vehicles do — you need three separate cleaners and conditioners, right? That used to be the case until Mothers VLR (Vinyl, Leather and Rubber) came along. The idea here is to quickly take care of the three types of surfaces with one product. How can one product take care of three completely different surfaces? The formula contains something called neatsoil (which comes from cows) for conditioning/softening/preserving, and lanolin (which comes from sheep) for water protection. Mothers claims VLR will safely remove tough stains and ground-in dirt while conditioning against drying, fading and cracking. This new product will sell for about $10 wherever Mothers products are sold (in most big-box auto-parts stores such as Canadian Tire) or you can find out more at mothers.com.

Ready for summer driving?

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Review. It carries half as many people as the convertible, yet costs a bit more – a fair price to pay for a little extra sporting flair

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Break out the SPF 50 and the Ray-Ban sunglasses because the Mini Cooper Roadster just arrived.

The two-seat convertible — a first for the Mini brand and a companion to the recently launched Coupe — adds some visual spice to the Mini's broadening model lineup that already includes a four-passenger drop-top. Admittedly, it seems a bit odd that BMW-owned Mini would now have two not-so-distinct convertibles that are constructed off the same platform and share the same mechanical bits. Furthermore, the two-seat Roadster lists for only $300 less than the standard four-place convertible.

Ah, but there's a point that's being overlooked. The Roadster swaps out the rear bench that isn't particularly roomy in the first place for an actual trunk (another Mini first). We're not talking cavernous space here by any means (it has a bit less volume than the Coupe's trunk) but it's enough to store a few decent-sized travel bags or a set or two of golf clubs regardless of whether the top is up or down.

The Roadster's styling is far less controversial than that of the helmet-headed Coupe and it looks better with the roof up than the existing Mini convertible. Combined with a windshield that has been tilted back an additional 13 degrees, the Roadster is one of the best looking of the bunch.

The hair-drying Roadster deserves its sports-car appellation. And, with pricing that ranges from $30,500 to $41,500, consider it an alternative to the league-leading Mazda Miata and an extra-fun way to celebrate the summer season.

Mini Cooper Roadster

- **Type:** Two-door, front-wheel-drive two-seat convertible
- **Engines (hp):** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (121); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (181-208)
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy): 7.2/4.9 (base 1.6)
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $25,000

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Wary of going it alone, automakers eye up dance partners

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The messages from some of the automakers at last week's Geneva auto show were somewhat contradictory.

Come look at all this great stuff we're building — way better than that crap the other guys build. Hey other guys, wouldn't mind a bit of help over here…

Just before the show, General Motors and the Peugeot-Citroen group announced an alliance, which will see GM will take a seven per cent share of the French automaker.

The arrangement is not unlike several that have developed over the last decade or so, between other auto titans, who have no intention of merging or allowing one partner to eventually swallow the other.

These new arrangements are all about trying to save costs on huge, global engineering programs.

Basically they're saying, we'll share development costs, because they're crazy expensive, then afterwards, we'll put them in our respective brand offerings and compete against each other like heck.

May the better man win, when it comes to exploiting that technology we both worked on.

With their vast R&D budgets and resources, you'd think most automakers would be big enough on their own, but analysts cite that looming fuel efficiency and emission targets are scaring the pants off some players, especially ones that don't have everything yet lined up in their pipelines.

And no one wants to bet the farm on one emerging technology, be it electric, hybrid, diesel, hydrogen, CNG, etc.

Another incentive to build alliances is to make sure you're not shut out of emerging markets.

A mature market is much harder to penetrate and less profitable. That's one of the reasons Chrysler-Fiat wants its next development dance partner to come from Asia (Mazda? Suzuki?), where it doesn't yet have a big presence.

Another reason is that the European marketplace isn't looking so good for the foreseeable future. Best go somewhere else for growth.

Another enabler of this trend is Volkswagen. The German automaker has gone on record, and made the point again at this year's show in Geneva, that it will spend over $70 billion over the next five years, to become the world's biggest automaker in both sales and profitability by 2018.

Currently standing in its way are GM and Toyota. If you are going to step into a ring with a bulked-up VW, you might want to bulk up a little yourself.

Toyota and BMW recently decided to trade respective technologies (hybrid batteries, diesel engines).

The Nissan-Renault alliance is going strong, and also works with Mercedes-Benz on a couple of projects. Those are just of few of the inter-company initiatives out there. And more will surely come.

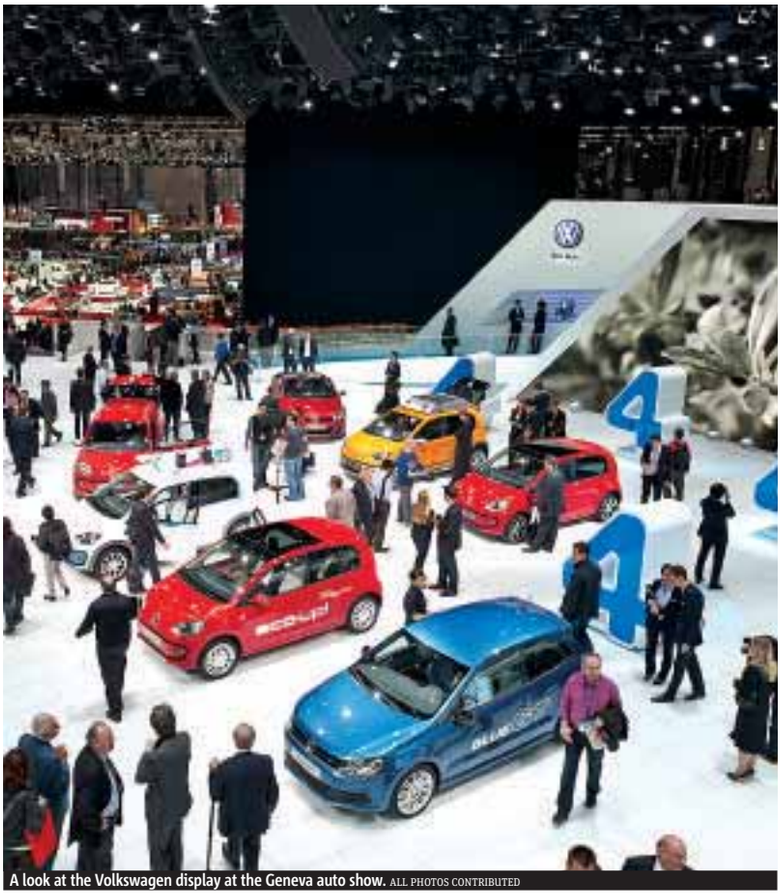
Will this make life harder on the small, quirkier manufacturers? Likely not. It hasn't yet.

The Geneva show was again full of specialty makes with weird ideas. You can't stop creative thought and drive, especially when someone, yet again, wants to build a car company in their vision. So it seems all good.

And it feels strangely hopeful too, and humane even, that some of the biggest companies in the world can figure out a way to work together, and at the same time, compete so fiercely in the marketplace.

It's heart warming … It's life affirming … It's … Hold on … Suddenly feeling verklempt … Please talk amongst yourselves.

A model poses with an Alfa Romeo.



A look at the Volkswagen display at the Geneva auto show. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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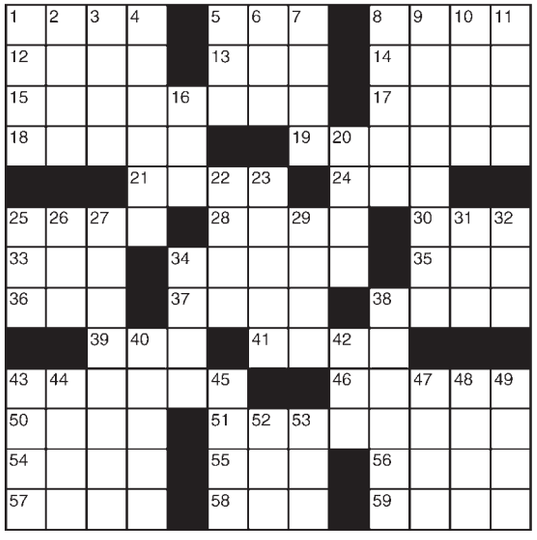
Crossword



Across

1 Segment
5 Science room
8 Arizona city
12 On the briny
13 Id counterpart
14 Terrible guy?
15 Approve
17 Cheerful tune
18 Wheel radius
19 "— With Wolves"
21 Chantilly, e.g.
24 Understand
25 Initial stake
28 Burn soother
30 Altar affirmative
33 Scoundrel
34 Work dough
35 "— Town"
36 Greek H
37 Pruritus
38 Elbow counterpart
39 Cornfield cry
41 Melody
43 Riga's land
46 Lightweight wood
50 Sills solo
51 Meeting place
54 Lowly worker
55 "All the Things You —"
56 Muscat's land
57 Huff and puff
58 Louis —
59 "Unh-unh"

Down

1 Go by
2 Memo acronym
3 Gambling mecca
4 Stop the ballcarrier
5 Souvenir from 29-Down
6 Past
7 007
8 Pooh's creator
9 Bad news from the landlord
10 Post-Christmas event
11 Picnic intruders
16 Afternoon social
20 On in years
22 Lacks the skills to
23 Vote into office
25 Expert
26 Enthusiast
27 Force exerted by pulling
29 Aloha Tower site
31 Payable
32 Tramcar load
34 Fuzzy fruit
38 Michael, Diane or Buster
40 — -garde
42 Leno's network
43 Reindeer herder, maybe
44 Vicinity
45 Trojan War hero
47 Prom-night transport
48 Bathday cake?
49 Hathaway or Heche
52 Spoon-bender Geller
53 3-Down's st.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Monday's answer

J	A	C	K	■	A	P	R	■	G	R	E	W
A	L	O	E	■	R	O	E	■	I	O	T	A
B	E	N	E	F	I	T	S	■	G	O	U	T
■	■	■	P	E	A	■	P	R	O	F	I	T
S	H	R	E	W	■	C	O	O	L	■	■	■
T	O	U	R	■	B	E	N	D	O	V	E	R
A	N	I	■	S	E	N	S	E	■	O	R	E
B	E	N	Z	O	A	T	E	■	V	I	N	E
■	■	■	O	U	R	S	■	M	O	D	E	L
F	E	D	O	R	A	■	K	A	Y	■	■	■
O	V	U	M	■	B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N
P	I	K	E	■	L	E	E	■	G	A	T	E
S	L	E	D	■	E	K	E	■	E	R	S	T

Sudoku

	6		4		9			2
				2		1		7
				1		6	3	
	1						8	5
			8		7			
8	3						2	
	2	7		8				
9		1		4				
5			9		1		7	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Monday's answer

2	6	4	5	3	9	1	8	7
7	5	1	6	8	2	4	3	9
9	8	3	7	4	1	5	2	6
1	7	9	3	6	8	2	4	5
5	3	6	2	7	4	9	1	8
4	2	8	1	9	5	7	6	3
6	1	2	8	5	7	3	9	4
3	9	5	4	2	6	8	7	1
8	4	7	9	1	3	6	5	2

Send a kiss

- **Love Birds.** Since you have come into my life I have been so happy. You have given me so much joy. Time spent with you is never boring, we laugh and carry on, we enjoy the same things, thank you for rescuing me. I hope to spend the rest of my days with you. From the blues man
- **AC.** put the two together and feel the electrical vibes racing through our veins. Feel the hope of what tomorrow will bring. Learn from yesterday's experiences. Once again, sending a good night kiss to the lover of my main dreams... heart aches by every beat...sit outside in the dark and enjoy the warm evening night after a thunder shower. FDC
- **MyPet.** Very difficult when in the scene where am reminded of you. Recieving hugs and kisses from you makes me miss you even more.I don't know how to handle it... From lost myself
- **Chad.** I wish i could let you know how much i like you, someday you will know. 2Shy2SayHi

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 16° MIN: 4°	MAX: 17° MIN: 4°	MAX: 11° MIN: 4°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Be careful what you ask for today because you won't be able to give it back if you change your mind.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You may find it hard to resist something that's bad for you today. But maybe it's OK to give in to your less disciplined side.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. A friend will have a profound effect on your opinions and beliefs today, but don't go changing your entire outlook on life.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. There is a danger you could make some illogical decisions over the next 24 hours. On the work front, especially, think carefully.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Not everyone sees the world through your eyes and you would do well to remember that fact today.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You may be worried about your money situation but that's OK because it will encourage you to search harder for a solution.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. A relationship is going through major changes at the moment. Don't make any hasty decisions. There's still time for you to decide.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You need to face up to reality and admit that something is wrong. It won't be as painful as you fear.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Changes in the wider world will lead to new opportunities for you personally. Be ready.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Someone you are close to will do something that takes you by surprise. Others think differently.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Things won't happen the way you expect them to over the next 24 hours but if you refuse to worry, everything will come right.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Life is not a zero sum game: There does not have to be a loser every time there is a winner.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"When it comes to doggie fashion, I think I'm it!"
Rick

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ GRAHAM HUGHES

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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